



What a lovely half term we've had in Spring 1! Our school community continues to flourish as we saw the return of meetings for our Junior Faith Leaders, School Council, Attendance Ambassadors and Healthy Body and Mind Coaches. To the excitement of many, extra-curricular sporting activities also resumed. Our whole school community engaged in Children's Mental Health Week 2022; the theme was 'Growing Together'. The children participated in assemblies and classroom activities to discover ways to help them grow emotionally as well as finding out ways to help each other to prosper also. The half term concluded with Year 1 leading our St. Valentines collective worship; hearing the story of the Good Samaritan made us think about how easy it is to love our friends and family, but how important it is to show love to everyone.

Wellbeing

Thank you to all the parents and children who took part in the 'Wellbeing' survey at the end of last term. The Governors and Team for Change have started to analyse the feedback and produce some actions for next steps—this work will continue into the next half term and beyond but here are just some of the things our school community said and what we have done so far in response...

- **Parents said they were sometimes unsure who to speak to in school.** This year, school has set up class emails. Class teachers are usually the first point of contact for any issues. Parents can also always telephone the office with a brief message and the member of staff most appropriate will return your contact.
- **Parents said they would like more information about events going on in school.** As we move out of COVID restrictions, we are happy to be able to get more school activities up and running. The format of this newsletter has changed slightly so we will reflect on what has happened to date, whilst also providing information on what's to come. Class dojo posts also provide parents with weekly class updates.
- **Children shared their love of the 'HeartSmart' PSHE scheme in helping them to recognise their feelings and the feelings of others. Children said they could talk to their teachers, but would like somewhere to go in their free time to talk about their feelings.** We have listened to this and will move our 'Chill & Chat' area inside after half term to provide a quieter space.



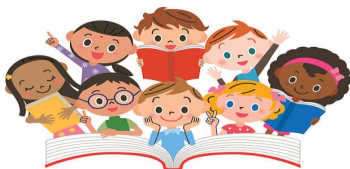
Reading for Pleasure

With new and exciting reading libraries in classes, we are making the most of our reading time. The children love selecting their own books. Why not ask your child what book they are reading in school at the moment?

The Toni boxes that were bought with the Christmas raffle money are up and running.

New phonics books have recently been purchased and are supporting our youngest children with their reading.

Talking about reading ... Have you set up the Go Read APP yet? This will help school and home to work together to promote reading.



Sporting Events

Football

The red football team played some great football in the Autumn term, placing second in their league and as a result joining the Middleton schools' division 1 league.

The green football team started off their new year campaign showcasing some great skills and attacking football and were unfortunate to come away with a defeat.

The five aside football team played in a tournament at St Anne's against some superb teams. They came away with 3 wins and a draw putting them through to the final which will be played after the half term.

Cross Country

Well done to all those that competed in the cross country tournament held at Alkington Primary. Both the Year 2 and Year 3 teams came second, Years 4 and 6 came third and Year 5 topped their group. What a difficult and muddy course it was!

Netball

We are very pleased that Netball Cub has started again for girls in Year 6! They are working hard to learn all the skills needed to compete in the Middleton Schools' Netball Tournament in April. The girls are already demonstrating some great skills!

Year 5 girls train at lunchtime and they are also doing brilliantly! They are getting ready for the Year 5 High 5 Competition in April which means the girls need to learn all the positions on court!



Healthy Body and Mind Coaches

The coaches will be the voice of school sports, extra-curricular activities and help in the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles in school.

At the first meeting, children were keen to start to put together a questionnaire in order to understand what children already think about PE and the extra-curricular activities. This feedback has been used as we have added even more activities to our lunchtime provision.

There's lots more to come, so watch this space!

School Council

School Council have had a very productive half term! They have been looking at the school dinners and thinking about what the children from Middleton Parish would like on the menu. Each class produced a survey which was discussed with the school cook (Mrs O'Neill). The new menu has been revised with the results from the survey. All the children were invited to a tasting afternoon to try out the new meals.

Junior Faith Leaders

Junior Faith Leaders continue to work towards the Archbishop of York's award. This half term they have created a collective worship on the theme of humility and this will be shared with classes next half term.





"Excellence, Truth and Grace"

MIDDLETON PARISH CHURCH SCHOOL

Keeping In Touch Newsletter

Spring 2: What's to come....

Looking forward to next half term, we will see Year 6 attending the Robinwood Residential or stay in school for activities that will challenge, develop teamwork and stimulate the imagination. We have whole school plans for 'World Book Day' and 'Red Nose Day', whilst Year 4 will get ready to lead us in our Easter Service. Our new lunchtime clubs and provision will begin and we will see the return of Commando Joe from Monday 22nd March. With so much to look forward to, we are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 28th February.

Home-School Communication

Last half term saw parents staying connected with teachers during their Parents' Evening appointments. This half term, **class clinics will return on Wednesday 16th March and Wednesday 13th April**. Zoom links will be shared on class dojo.



Please do not hesitate to email classes if you need to get in touch, please remember that teachers are in class so a response may take a few days.

Email addresses will be on class newsletters.

For updates to contact details, payments, allergy/medical information, emergency messages etc. please contact the school office on 0161 643 0753 or:

office@middletonparishce.rochdale.sch.uk

Sometimes families need a little extra support with things such as housing, employment, emotional well-being and parenting. Our Engagement and Inclusion team are here to help, including signposting families to services outside of school. Should you need it the team's email is **Eandl@middletonparishce.rochdale.sch.uk**

Watch out also for useful information being posted on Class Dojo. Keep an eye out for class newsletters being shared on Class Dojo pages in the first week back, and enjoy your window into the classroom with weekly posts from class teachers.

Senior Leaders and the Engagement and Inclusion team look forward to seeing you on the playground. Please can we remind parents/carers that this isn't the time to pass on a message, we see so many people that we may forget; an email into school is always sure to be actioned.

Lunchtimes

Food, Glorious Food!

A new menu has been devised using feedback from children. Meat used in our meals is fresh from Lords' Butchers and school have a daily delivery of fresh fruit and vegetables. Our full menu is available on Class Dojo. Next half term, children will continue to eat in classrooms, ensuring they have a social space to eat, whilst also enabling school to utilise the hall for some of the extra-curricular provision the children have requested.

Extra-curricular Clubs

In Spring 2, we will have a free-flow approach to accessing lunchtime clubs, in a similar way to our pre-covid provision. The field will be open daily for football and team ball games. The playground will provide lots of opportunity for both organised playground games and imaginative free play.

Monday: Pop Choir and Commando Joe

Tuesday: Netball and Gardening

Wednesday: School Newspaper and Forest School

Thursday: Art & Crafts and Tai-Chi

Friday: Table Tennis and Rugby

Chill and Chat

Each lunchtime the small hall will be available for any child who wishes to colour, read or play with dolls or Lego. This area will be staffed by members from our Engagement and Inclusion team or senior leaders and will be a space children can freely access if they want to speak to an adult. Should children need a more private space to talk, this will be provided.

Fun Friday!

Friday lunchtime is treat time; the children have selected their favourite meals for this day. Outside, the field will be used for obstacle courses, space hoppers, nightline games, music will be played and lots of fun will be had by all!



Interventions

As we endeavour to provide all children will the very best opportunities to succeed, sometimes this means providing them with some additional learning opportunities to close any gaps and raise standards across the curriculum.

Our first wave of interventions will take place at the very start of the school day (8:50am – 9:10am) and at the very end of the school day (3pm – 3:20pm). These times have been trialled by some year groups with great success.

If your child has been identified for intervention, you will have received a message from class teachers. Please endeavour to ensure your child is in school for these times to maximise their opportunities for success.

Comic Relief: 'Red Nose Day'

From the 14th—18th March, pupils will be given the opportunity to create their very own Red Nose habitat using the LEGO 'Build the Change' factsheets and activities. Keep an eye out for the finished creations on Class Dojo.



Donation buckets will be on the playground all week. On Friday 18th March, children are welcome to wear a 'Red Nose Day' accessory or an item of clothing.

The school kitchen will kindly make a 'Red Nose Day' themed treat for all children!

World Book Day

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day, we will be holding a 'Book SWAP'. Children will be given the opportunity to bring in a used book they have read and no longer want to swap it with another. Books should be brought to school on Monday 28th February or Tuesday 1st March, they will be sorted by staff and then on WORLD BOOK DAY, Thursday 3rd March, children will select a new to them book to take home.

Classes will also be engaging in WORLD BOOK DAY LIVE! Author & Illustrator Academy videos will be shared from the authors and illustrators of this year's [£1 books](#). Keep an eye out for the £1 book token coming home!

The whole school may if they wish, come to school dressed as a book character, many of our staff will also be joining in the fun. Please be aware we are not expecting you to spend lots of money on an outfit, home-made or one adapted from clothes you have at home can be just as effective. This is not a non-uniform day and usual school uniform rules apply if not dressed up as a book character.

Key Dates:

Please keep an eye on Class Dojo for any additional key dates.

Monday 28th February: Back to School

Monday 28th February or Tuesday 1st: Book swap: books to school

Thursday 3rd March: 'World Book Day'

14th—16th March: Year 6 Robinwood Residential

Friday 18th March: 'Red Nose Day'

Thursday 14th April: Easter Service 4S 9:30am 4L 10:30am

Thursday 14th April: End of Term 2pm Finish, no ASC

Footwear for Fun!



In order for children to engage in all the provision available to them, we ask that children bring to school an old pair of trainers and football/walking/bed socks. Please see class newsletters for more details.